Bill against India in US Congress

3086. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Bill has been passed by US Congress imposing restriction on aid to India due to non-payment of tax for a building in New York;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action being taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The US Congress has not passed such a bill till date. While considering State Department's Authorization Bill (S-925), Democrat Senator Charles E. Schumer from New York had introduced an Amendment No. 1188 titled 'Penalty for Unpaid Property Taxes' on July 10, 2003. It proposed that an amount equal to 110% of the total amount of unpaid property tax owed by a foreign country to the District of Columbia and New York City shall be with held from the aid earmarked for that country. This amendment was unanimously agreed to through voice vote by the US Senate. However, the main bill S-925 has not been voted upon in the Senate till date.

(c) Since the claim of the City of New York on real estate taxes and interest thereon for the Government-owned Permanent Mission of India (PMI) building in New York has not been found justifiable, it is being contested by the Government of India in the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

US support to India for permanent seat in security council

3087. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has taken up its demand of permanent seat in the UN Security Council at appropriate level;

(b) If so, the details in this regard;

(c) the US stand in this regard and whether USA has offered India conditional support on this issue; and